

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Written Ex Parte Communication in CS Docket No. 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:


Daystar Television Network (DTN) understands that the FCC has proposed to extend the viewability rule to ensure that must carry stations can be accessed by all cable subscribers regardless of whether they subscribe to digital, analog or hybrid systems. As licensee of stations that oftentimes depends upon mandatory carriage to reach cable television households, DTN supports the FCC's proposal.

From a programming perspective, DTN broadcasts a 24 hour religious format, which may be the only religious broadcaster in a given market. By virtue of being television, we may be the only "Church" option for those who are shut-in, infirm, or aged. The viewability rule allows more of these persons to be reached. DTN televises many regional religious conferences or Christian activities on a national basis. The viewability rule helps share these varied perspectives to more people. The viewability rule directly aids us in serving the public.

The National Association of Broadcasters released a study documenting the potential harm to stations if they lose a portion of their viewers through changes to the viewability rule. The study itself directly pertains to commercial broadcasters. DTN, unlike those broadcasters in the study, is viewer supported. However, fewer viewers due to the lack of the viewability rule, would be as detrimental to DTN and to other viewer supported stations as it would be to commercial stations.

The Daystar Television Network wishes to continue to serve all of the cable households. For this reason, I strongly urge the FCC to retain the current viewability rule.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry Turner
Daystar Television Network

cc: William Lake, Michelle Carey, Mary Beth Murphy, Steven Broeckaert, Alison Neplokh,
Evan Baranoff, John Gabrysch

